

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
SOUTH DAKOTA

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN**  
**DIKE**  
**CODE 356**

Landowner/Operator \_\_\_\_\_

Job Location \_\_\_\_\_ GPS \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Operation and Maintenance Items**

Operation and maintenance (O&M) is necessary for all conservation practices and is required for all practices installed with NRCS assistance. The landuser is responsible for proper O&M throughout the life of the practice and as may be required by Federal, state or local laws or regulations.

Operation refers to operation of the practice in compliance with all laws, regulations, ordinances, and easements; and in such a manner that will result in the least adverse impact on the environment and will permit the practice to serve the purpose for which it was installed. Maintenance includes work to prevent deterioration of the practice, repairing damage, or replacing components which fail.

Necessary operation and maintenance items for this practice include:

- ☐ Periodically inspect gates, valves and other appurtenances for proper functioning, and their ability to maintain the water level at design elevations. Remove debris or flow blockage. Periodically operate gates and valves to help assure proper function.
- ☐ Periodically check elevations of earthfills and restore to grade and shape, if necessary. All settlement or cracks in the soil should be investigated (to determine the cause) and repaired.
- ☐ Check all rock riprap and erosion control matting sections for accelerated weathering and displacement of materials. Replace to original shape and grade if necessary.
- ☐ Repair any rodent, burrowing animal, vandalism, vehicle, or livestock damage.
- ☐ Remove debris that may accumulate on the dike and areas near the inlet and outlet.
- ☐ Maintain vigorous growth of vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing or short term grazing may also be needed to control height.
- ☐ Maintain fences to prevent unauthorized human access or uncontrolled grazing of dike surfaces.
- ☐ Make sure all structure drains are functional and soil is not being transported through the drainage system. Screens and/or rodent guards must be maintained and in place.

Other \_\_\_\_\_

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